**REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-EXPEDITED PROCEDURE-
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1654**

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A **method of parenteral administration comprising parenterally administering a** stable pharmaceutical composition **to a patient, wherein the composition** comprises ~~comprising~~ erythropoietin and a peptide stabilizer selected from the group consisting of Gly-Gly, Gly-Gly-Gly, Gly-Tyr, Gly-Phe, Gly-His, Gly-Asp, Gly-Ala, Ala-Gly, Ala-Ala, derivatives thereof and mixtures thereof, ~~and wherein~~ the composition is free of serum albumin **and the derivatives are acylated, fluorinated, alpha-keto or salt forms of said peptide stabilizers, or include nitro Phe, cyclohexyl Ala, or p-amino Phe**.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 16, wherein the peptide stabilizer is a tripeptide.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) The **method** ~~composition~~ of claim 16, wherein the derivatives comprise salts of Gly-Gly, Gly-Gly-Gly, Gly-Tyr, Gly-Phe, Gly-His, Gly-Asp, Gly-Ala, Ala-Gly, and Ala-Ala.

21. (Currently amended) The **method** ~~composition~~ of claim 16, wherein concentration of the peptide stabilizer in said composition is between about 0.01 g/L and about 10 g/L.

22. (Currently amended) The **method** ~~composition~~ of claim 21, wherein the concentration of the peptide stabilizer is between about 0.5 g/L and about 5 g/L.

**REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-EXPEDITED PROCEDURE-
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1654**

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) The **method** ~~**composition**~~ of claim 16, wherein the erythropoietin is a recombinant erythropoietin.

25. (Currently amended) The **method** ~~**composition**~~ of claim 24, wherein the recombinant erythropoietin is produced in BHK cells.

26. (Currently amended) The **method** ~~**composition**~~ of claim 24, wherein the recombinant erythropoietin is produced in CHO cells.

27. (Currently amended) The **method** ~~**composition**~~ of claim 24, wherein the recombinant erythropoietin is erythropoietin omega.

28. (Currently amended) The **method** ~~**composition**~~ of claim 27, wherein concentration of erythropoietin omega in said composition is between about 500 IU/ml and about 100,000 IU/ml.

29. (Currently amended) The **method** ~~**composition**~~ of claim 28, wherein the concentration of erythropoietin omega is between about 2,000 IU/ml and about 20,000 IU/ml.

30. (Currently amended) The **method** ~~**composition**~~ of claim 16, wherein the composition further comprises a surfactant.

31. (Currently amended) The **method** ~~**composition**~~ of claim 30, wherein the surfactant is a nonionic surfactant, cationic surfactant, anionic surfactant, amphoteric surfactant, zwitterionic surfactant, or a mixture thereof.

32. (Cancelled).

**REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-EXPEDITED PROCEDURE-
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1654**

33. (Currently amended) The **method** ~~composition~~ of claim 30, wherein concentration of the surfactant in said composition is between about 0.0005% w/v and about 0.5% w/v.

34. (Currently amended) A **method of parenteral administration comprising parenterally administering a** stable pharmaceutical composition **to a patient, wherein the composition** comprises ~~comprising~~ erythropoietin, a polyoxyalkylene sorbitan fatty acid ester, and a peptide stabilizer selected from the group consisting of Gly-Gly, Gly-Gly-Gly, Gly-Tyr, Gly-Phe, Gly-His, Gly-Asp, Gly-Ala, Ala-Gly, Ala-Ala, derivatives thereof and mixtures thereof, ~~and wherein~~ the composition is free of serum albumin **and the derivatives are acylated, fluorinated, alpha-keto or salt forms of said peptide stabilizers, or include nitro Phe, cyclohexyl Ala, or p-amino Phe**

35. (Currently amended) The **method** ~~composition~~ of claim 34, wherein the erythropoietin is erythropoietin omega.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Withdrawn) A stable pharmaceutical composition comprising erythropoietin and a peptide stabilizer selected from the group consisting of tetrapeptides, pentapeptides, derivatives thereof and mixtures thereof, and wherein the composition is free of serum albumin.

39. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 38 wherein the composition is for administration by parenteral injection.

40. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 38 wherein the composition further comprises a polyoxyalkylene sorbitan fatty acid ester.